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Falcicornis zhongi Xin & Qi, sp. nov., a new stag beetle species from Vietnam (Coleoptera: Lucanidae: Lucaninae)

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Lucaninae;
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zhongi;
taxonomy;
description;
new combination;
new species;
Indochina;
Vietnam.

Abstract. – In this paper, we describe a new species, *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**. (Coleoptera: Lucanidae: Lucaninae) from Hà Giang Province, Vietnam. Meanwhile, we proposed a taxonomic treatment: *Falcicornis vidam* (Nguyen & Schenk, 2015) **comb**. **nov**. (transferred from *Macrodorcas* Motschulsky, 1861). Furthermore, we provide a checklist of *Falcicornis* species from Vietnam.

Fei-Yi Xin, Yi-Feng Zhang & Zhi-Hao Qi, 2024. – *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**., a new stag beetle species from Vietnam (Coleoptera: Lucanidae: Lucaninae). *Faunitaxys*, 12(44): 1 – 6.

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Introduction

The stag beetle genus *Falcicornis* is established by Planet (1894) with *F. groulti* Planet, 1894 as its type species from India. The species of *Falcicornis* are widely distributed from Southeast Asia to Northeast Asia (Fujita, 2010; Yi, 2023). The relationship between *Falcicornis* and its related genera, e.g., *Dorcus* Macleay, 1819, *Hemisodorcus* Thomson, 1862 and *Macrodorcas* Motschulsky, 1861 is still unclear, which present some differences of generic classification among many researchers (Fujita, 2010; Huang & Chen 2013, 2017; Nguyen & Schenk, 2015; Yi, 2023). In this study, we mainly follow the generic classification of Huang & Chen (2013, 2017).

In recent years, researches of the genus *Falcicornis* are pretty rare, except for the compilation and revision of the fauna in China and Vietnam (Huang & Chen 2013, 2017, 2023; Nguyen & Schenk, 2015). In this study, we describe a new *Falcicornis* species, i.e., *F. zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**. from Hà Giang Province, Vietnam and provide a checklist of *Falcicornis* species from Vietnam.

Material and methods

The habitus photos of the specimens in this study were taken using the Canon 5D Mark IV digital camera paired with the Laowa FF 100 mm F2.8 CA-Dreamer Macro 2X macro lens. The depth of field overlay was taken with the WeMacro automatic focus stacking rail, and the supplementary light was completed by the self-made circular supplementary light with the Mioron2835 24V high color LED strip. The depth of field overlay of the image was completed using HeliconFocus 8.0.4 Pro, and the post-processing optimization of the image was done using Adobe Lightroom. The Detacolor Spyder Checkr Photo was used for color correction. The specimen's reproductive organs and other detailed features were captured using a Keyence VHX-5000 digital microscope, paired with a Keyence VH-Z20R zoom lens (20–200×) and a built-in light source. Image cropping, splicing, and other operations are completed by Adobe Photoshop 2023.

The morphological terminology follows Huang & Chen (2010, 2013, 2017).

Abbreviations for collections:

CXTZ: personal collection of Xiao-Tian Zhong, Chengdu, China;
NACRC: National Animal Collection Resource Center, Beijing, China.

Measurement criteria (mm):

Body length: length between the apex of the mandible to the elytral apex along the midline;
Elytral length: length between the basal border and the apex of the elytra along the suture;
Elytral width: the widest part of the elytra;
Head length: length between the tip of the clypeus and the posterior margin of the occiput along the midline;
Head width: the widest part of the head;
Mandible length: length from the apex of the mandible to its base at the anterior margin of the head;
Pronotal length: length of the pronotum along the midline;
Pronotal width: the widest part of the pronotum.

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Results

Falcicornis Planet, 1894

Falcicornis zhongi Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**.

(Fig. 1-19)

Falcicornis neolucanoides Huang & Chen, 2013: Yi, 2023: 40, pl. 26, figs. 402-1 [misidentification]

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/5355786E-A469-4C2C-BF9E-51D1334A76DC

Holotype, ♂ (NACRC: IOZ (E) 211511), Vietnam, Hà Giang Province, Vị Xuyên County, Tay Con Linh mountain, 22°46'28"N, 104°42'13"E, 1100-1800m, 31.V.2024, local collector leg.

Paratypes, 2 ♂ (CXTZ), same data as holotype but 14.VII.2024.

Diagnosis. – The new species is similar to *Falcicornis neolucanoides* Huang & Chen, 2013 in habitus character. These two species can be distinguished by significant morphological differences of structural essence on mandible (Fig. 3): 1) with an apical fork instead of smooth; 2) position of apical 1/4 protrude with two coterminous teeth rather than only a relatively larger, sharper and subtriangle tooth. Besides, its mesotibia and metatibia each have an oblique suberect spine apically, the spine presents an acute-angle with direction of apex in new species (Fig. 10–11), but in *F. neolucanoides*, the spine presents right-angle.

Description of the holotype (Fig. 1-2)

Dimensions.

– Body length (29.2 mm).
– Length of particular body parts (mm):
  head (4.1)
  mandible (8.6)
  pronotum (5.7)
  elytra (11.8).
– Width (mm):
  head (7.1)
  pronotum (9.4)
  elytra (8.2).

Habitus (Fig. 1-2). – Color maroon to dark-red, with moderately glossy; whole body densely tiny punctuated, nearly glabrous, only anterior margin of pronotum and legs with visible pubescence.

Head. – Wider than long, widest across eyes. Anterior margin bisinuate. Canthus (Fig. 4) sharp, dividing over 1/2 of the eye. Clypeolabrum (Fig. 5) transverse, 1/3 width of head, widely and shallowly emarginate at apical margin, lateral angles acute, indistinct defined by a transverse suture. Mandible (Fig. 3) about 2.1 times as long as head, distinctly incurved behind apex; bifurcate at apex, protrude at apical 1/4 with 2 coterminous teeth; basal tooth small, bifurcate horizontally; mandible in lateral view upturned at base but horizontal near apex (Fig. 6). Antennal club with 3 antennomeres; antennomere 7 smaller and sharply pointed apically; antennomeres 8–10 lamellate.

Pronotum. – Transverse, 1.6 times wider than long, distance between 2 lateral angles widest. Anterior margin bisinuate, clearly extending to the front at midline; anterior angles sharp and directed forwards. Lateral margins shrink inward at position before lateral angles; lateral angles rounded and distinctly protruded. Posterior margin weakly bisinuate, posterior angles obsolete and blunt.

Scutellum. – Subtriangular, punctate, 1.7 times wider than long.

Legs. – Outer margin of protibia (Fig. 7) serrated with 5 acute oblique erect protuberances (excluding apex bifurcate) ever-larger from base to apex, 1 spur at apex; apex bifurcate with sharp branches at tip. The outer margin of mesotibia (Fig. 8) and metatibia (Fig. 9) smooth, with terminal spines, a suberect ventral spine behind the apex, makes an acute-angle with direction of apex (Fig. 10–11), 2 spurs at apex.

Elytra. – Elongate, 1.4 times longer than wide, the anterior margin of elytra obviously narrower than pronotum.

Abdomen and aedeagus. – Abdominal tergite VIII (Fig. 12) without lateral angles, a poorly defined crack in midline almost runs through tergite. Abdominal ventrite VIII (Fig. 13) with a transverse distinct membranous area in the middle of base, middle of posterior margin membranous. Ventral plate of the abdominal segment IX (Fig. 15) without membranous stripe, obviously constricted behind the base to the middle, then widens gradually to the apex. Aedeagus (Fig. 16–19) in dorsal view about 3.5 times longer than wide. Basal piece elongated, distinctly constricted in basal part, nearly 1.6 times longer than parameres in dorsal view, with a pair of developed sclerotized dorsal plates; ventral plate at apical end of basal piece with a sclerotized protruded part. Paramere with small basal process, apex of paramere upcurved. Penis clearly shorter than paramere and the widest distance about as wide as paramere in ventral view. Flagellum divided into three sections in posterior half, about 1.2 times longer than aedeagus, apex of middle section weakly enlarged.

Etymology. – The new species is named after Mr. Xiao-Tian Zhong (钟晓天) (Sichuan, China), who provided the type specimens for our research.

Type locality. – Vietnam, Hà Giang Province, Vị Xuyên County, Tay Con Linh mountain.

Distribution. – Vietnam (Hà Giang).

Checklist of *Falcicornis* from Vietnam

About 14 taxa of the genus *Falcicornis* Planet, 1894 are known from Vietnam so far including as listed (Huang & Chen, 2010, 2013, 2017; Fujita, 2010; Yi, 2023; Nguyen & Schenk, 2015):

– *Falcicornis axisopsis* (Séguy, 1954)
– *Falcicornis cuongi* (Maeda, 2009)
– *Falcicornis itoi* (Bomans, 1993)
– *Falcicornis kusakabei hagiangensis* (Fujita, 2010)
– *Falcicornis mellianus* (Kriesche, 1920)
– *Falcicornis negrei* (Lacroix, 1978)
– *Falcicornis neolucanoides* Huang & Chen, 2013
– *Falcicornis pseudaxis* (Didier, 1926)
– *Falcicornis ruficrus* (De Lisle, 1970)
– *Falcicornis rufonotatus* (Pouillaude, 1913)
– *Falcicornis seguyi* (De Lisle, 1955)
– *Falcicornis songianus* (Didier & Séguy, 1953)
– *Falcicornis vidam* (Nguyen & Schenk, 2015), **comb**. **nov**.
– *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**.

Discussion

Yi (2023) provided a figure of *F. neolucanoides* form Hà Giang, Vietnam, the type locality of *F. zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp. nov.**, and he showed a feature: the position of apical 1/4 protrude has two coterminous teeth. It is different from the diagnosis of *F. neolucanoides* we provide in present study. Therefore, we consider that it is an misidentification of a middle-sized *F. zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**.

Nguyen & Schenk (2015) described *Macrodorcas vidam* as a new species of *Macrodorcas* in the *M. humilis* group from central Vietnam. The species closest in morphology to *M. vidam* has been transferred into *Falcicornis* in Huang & Chen, 2013, i.e., *F. taibaishanensis* (Schenk, 2008), it is also the taxonomic system we recognize and follow. Hence, we transferred *M. vidam* from *Macrodorcas* to *Falcicornis*, i.e., *F. vidam* (Nguyen & Schenk, 2015) **comb**. **nov**.

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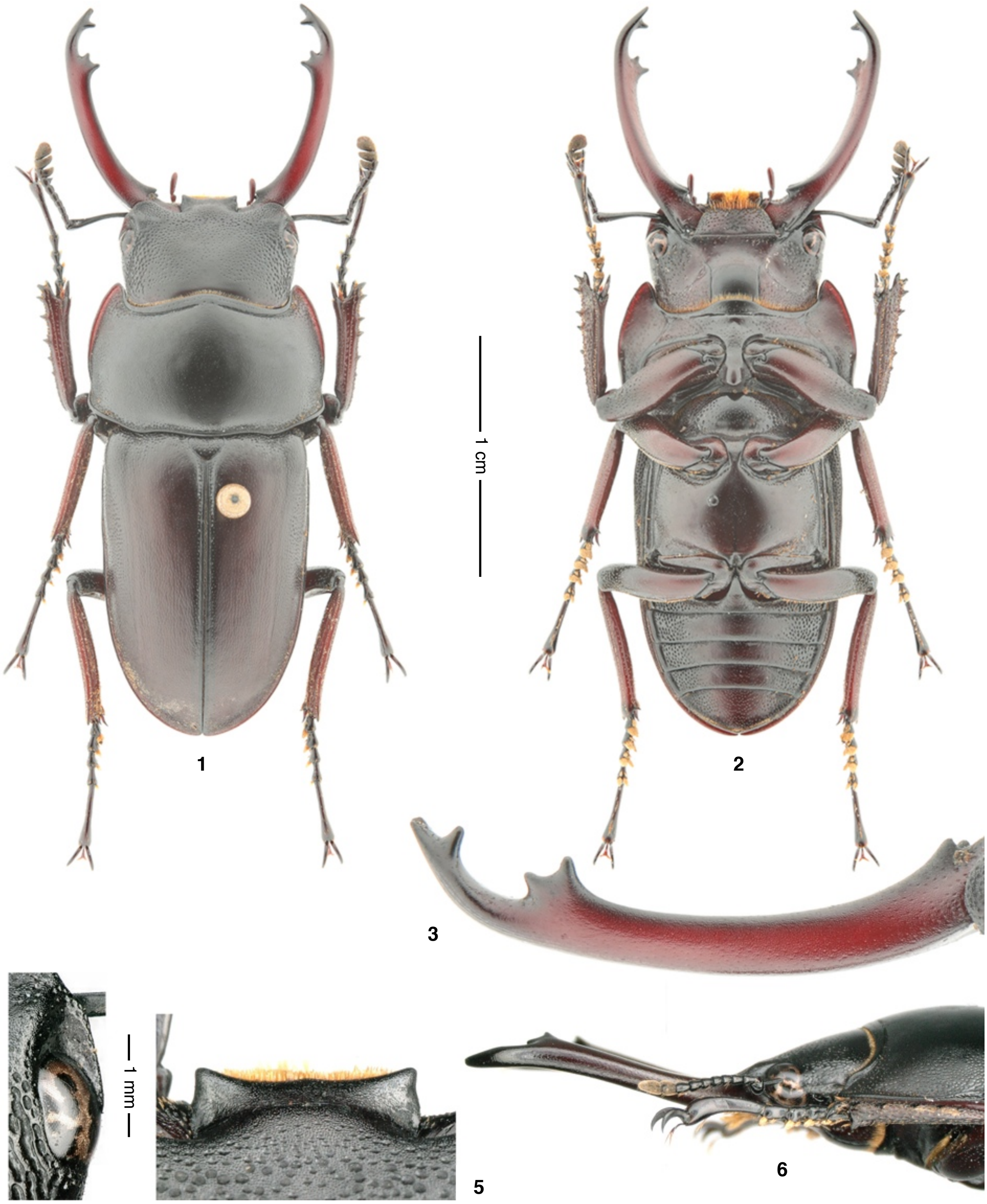

Fig. **1**-**6**. *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**., holotype.

Fig. **1**-**2**. Habitus. **1**. Dorsal view. **2**. Ventral view. **Fig**. **3**-**6**. Detailed habitus. **3**. Mandible in dorsal view. **4**. Canthus. **5**. Clypeolabrum. **6**. Anterior half of body in lateral view.

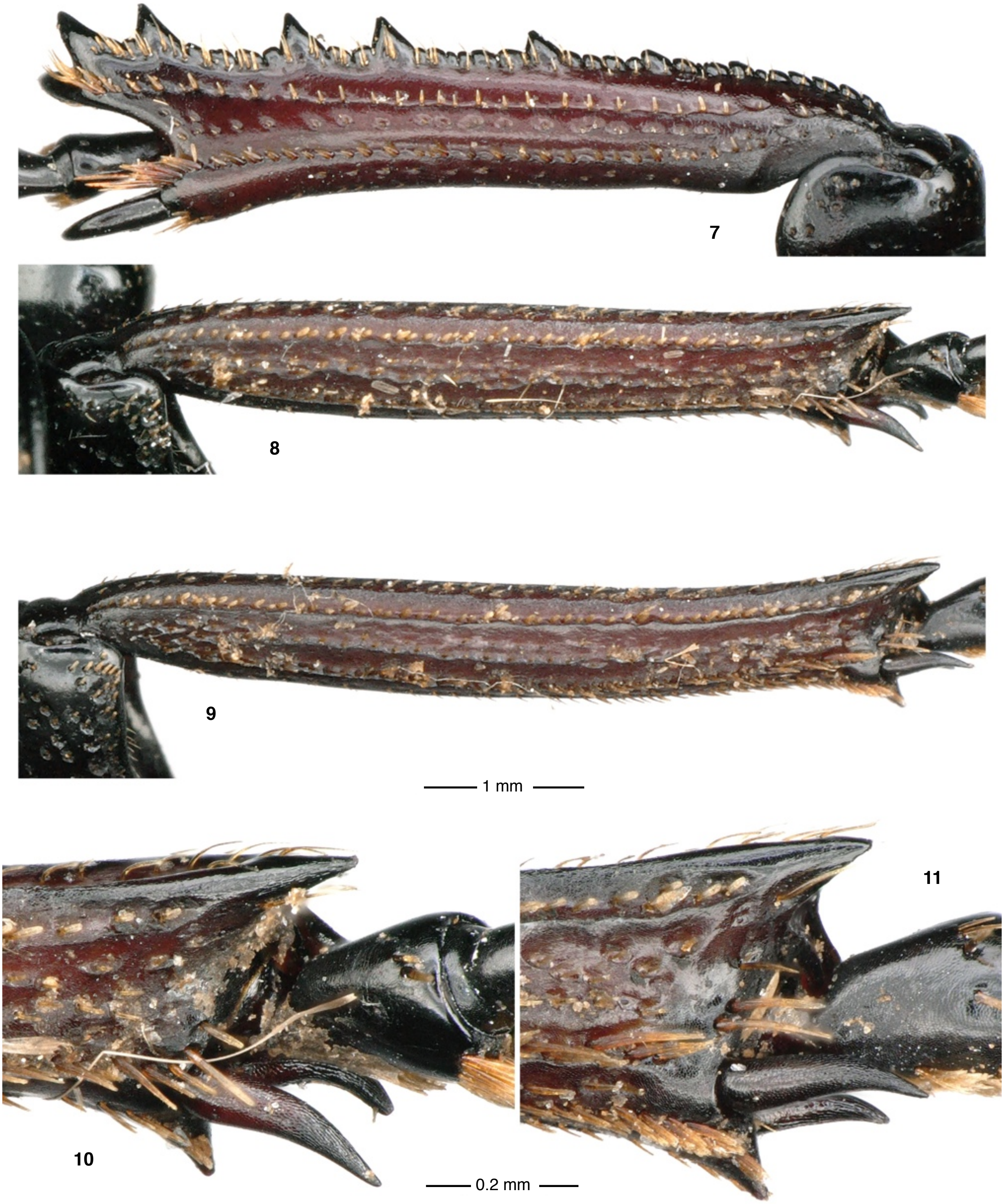

Fig. **7-11**. *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**., holotype.
7. Protibia. **8**. Mesotibia. **9**. Metatibia. **10**. Apical part of mesotibia. **11**. Apical part of metatibia.

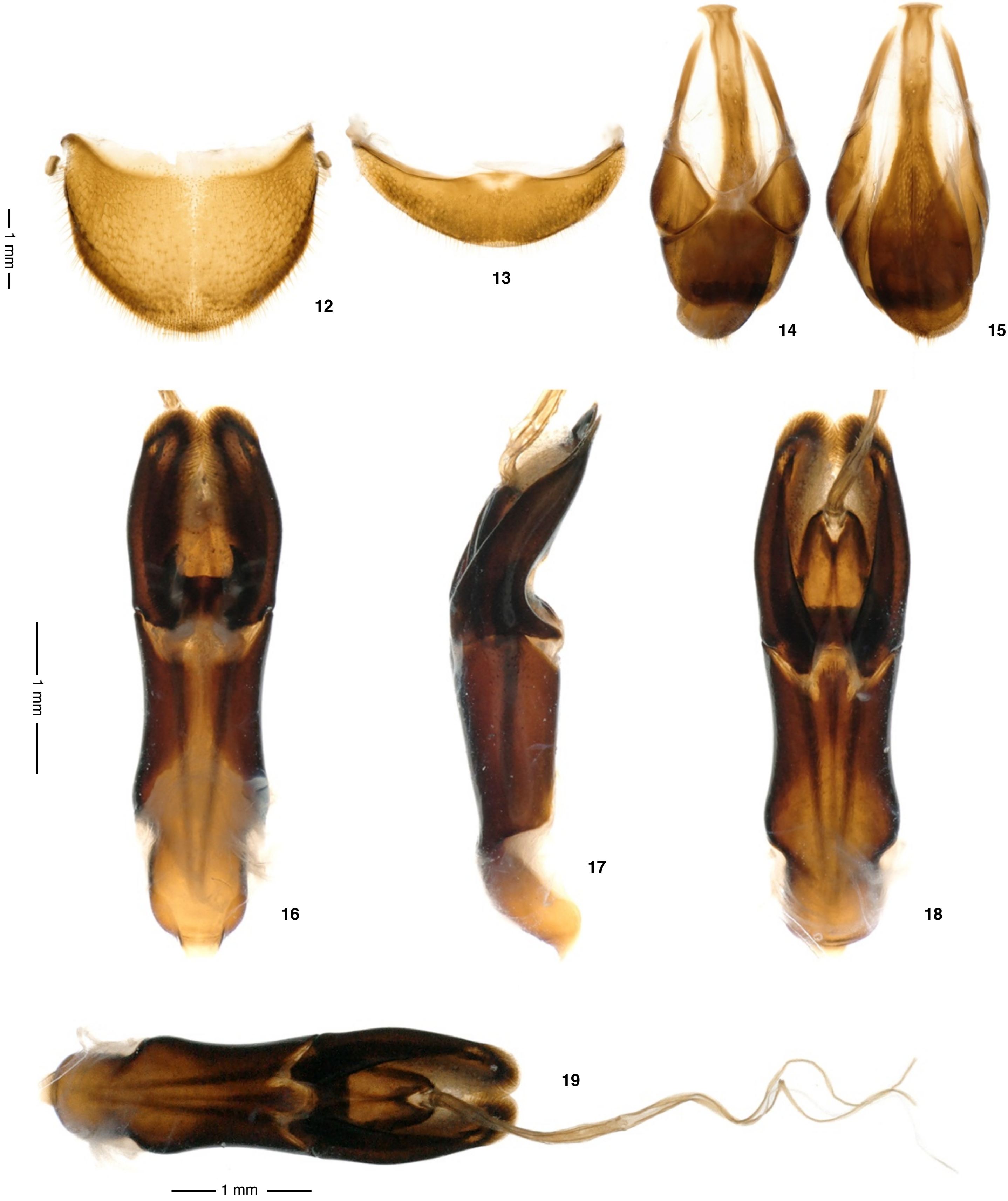

Fig. **12-19**. *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**., holotype.

Fig. **12-15**. **12**. Abdominal tergite VIII. **13**. Abdominal ventrite VIII. **14-15**. Abdominal segment IX. **12**, **14**. Dorsal view. **13**, **15**. Ventral view.
Fig. **16-19**. Aedeagus. **16**. Dorsal view. **17**. Lateral view. **18-19**. Ventral view.

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Contribution of the authors [1]

Publisher correspondence. – ZHQ
Writing the article. – FYX, ZHQ
Description of the new species. – FYX, ZHQ
Article proofreading. – FYX, ZHQ, YFZ
Material study. – FYX
Author of the figures. – YFZ

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[1] **FYX** = Fei-Yi Xin – **YFZ** = Yi-Feng Zhang – **ZHQ** = Zhi-Hao Qi.

Résumé

Fei-Yi Xin, Yi-Feng Zhang & Zhi-Hao Qi, 2024. – *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**., un nouveau lucane du Vietnam (Coleoptera: Lucanidae: Lucaninae). *Faunitaxys*, 12(44): 1 – 6.

Nous décrivons une nouvelle espèce, *Falcicornis zhongi* Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**. (Coleoptera : Lucanidae : Lucaninae) de la province de Hà Giang, au Vietnam. Parallèlement, nous proposons : *Falcicornis vidam* (Nguyen & Schenk, 2015) **comb**. **nov**. (transféré de *Macrodorcas* Motschulsky, 1861). De plus, nous fournissons la liste des *Falcicornis* du Vietnam.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Lucanidae, Lucaninae, *Falcicornis*, *zhongi*, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, nouvelle combinaison, Indochine, Vietnam.

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Falcicornis zhongi Xin & Qi, **sp**. **nov**., holotype.

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